

Amendments to the Specification:

Pages 12 and 13, paragraph 47, please replace with the following:

[0047] In accordance with the embodiment of the present invention as shown in Figures 1 to 7, the link elements 12 of the conveyor belt 10 are further provided with edge extensions 16 that have surface openings 27 and 28 on the conveying surface, and various other features which are described in further detail below. These features provided on the edge extensions 16 allow easy installation and retention of the pivot rods 24 of the conveyor belt 10. In addition, these features also minimize the occurrence of tenting while further providing a mechanism to control the minimum turn radius of the conveyor belt 10.

Pages 13, paragraph 48, please replace with the following:

[0048] In the above regard, the edge extensions 16 are provided with entry apertures 30 that are sized to allow insertion of the pivot rods 24 through the edge extension 16 and to be received within the transverse rod openings 22 of the intermeshed link elements 12. As described in detail below, the ends of the pivot rods 24 are retained in the edge extensions 16 by a transverse obstruction so as to reduce the potential for unintentional removal of the pivot rods 24. In addition, the surface openings 27 provided on the conveying surface of the edge extensions 16 in the illustrated embodiment are sized to show at least a portion of the pivot rods 24 when the pivot rods 24 are retained in the edge extensions 16 as most clearly shown in Figures 2 and 5. Further, surface openings 28 also provided on the conveying surface of the edge extensions 16 in the illustrated embodiment are positioned above the entry apertures 30 as most clearly shown in Figures 1, 4, and 7. Moreover, the edge extensions 16 of the illustrated embodiment are provided with protrusions 32 at one end thereof which block the entry apertures 30 of adjacent link elements when adjacent link elements 12 are collapsed together in the manner shown most clearly in Figures 4 and 6. In this regard, in the illustrated embodiment, the entry apertures 30 are provided within receiving slots 34 which, in the present embodiment, are defined by an upper flange 36 and a lower flange 38 that extend from the edge extensions

16. As can be appreciated by examination of Figure 6, the receiving slot 34 is sized to receive the protrusion 32 of an adjacent link element 12 when the link elements 12 are collapsed in the manner shown in Figure 4. During assembly of the conveyor belt 10, when the link elements 12 are interconnected together, the pivot rods 24 can easily be inserted into the entry aperture 30 and through the rod opening 19 of the drive extension 18, as well as the transverse rod openings 22 of the intermeshed link elements 12.